

## THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Part two of the long awaited saga trilogy of *The Hobbit* is one of the most visually stunning films in terms of computer-generated images. The dragon rocks! Be prepared, though, as this film is long but well worth the wait. Our familiar heroes Bilbo Baggins, Gandalf and Legolas (added, I believe, due to the popularity of Orlando Bloom) are at it again braving the elements to retrieve another magical item. The ring plays its part as it always does. And by the time the amazingly configured Smaug appears, you believe every scale on his body and can feel the heat of his fiery breath. What Peter Jackson has done with the beloved Tolkien tales is amazing in itself. It is as if he was able to reach inside the collective unconscious of all of us who read the books as children and longed to see what we could only heretofore imagine. These are classic films of classic tales and should be required reading and viewing for all young people.

What we learn from these stories is about how evil takes over the heart, and how love and friendship work together to overcome the darkness in ourselves and in others. The *Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Ring* series reminds us that there are heroes in all of us, but also the possibility of corruption. And, that the danger is all around, but also within us. It also reminds us that each of us must discover our purpose and our strength in the world, and how we use our gifts and talents to make the world better and to protect those we love. There are always going to be battles between good and evil, but it is up to each of us to choose which side we fight on.

The memorable characters of Frodo, Gollum, Bilbo, Gandalf and all the others show how very vulnerable we are, and how very easily we can be lured by power and possession. The dragons exist to remind us that no matter how big the challenge, how dark or powerful the foe, we can defeat it – together. Smaug is magnificent, proud and full of greed. But the bigger they are... well, you get the idea. Go see for yourself but don't drink the large drink cause you won't want to miss anything.

I give *The Hobbit, The Desolation of Smaug* five dragons.

Wishing you all Happy Holiday movie viewing until we communicate again next year!!  
Thank you all for your good wishes throughout the year and for reading my musings on movies.

